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COMOR-M-19

COMMITTEE ON OVERHEAD RECONNAISSANCE

Minutes of Meeting Held in Room 429
 Matomic Building, Central Intelligence Agency
 at 1:00 p.m., 11 April 1961

PRESIDING

James O. Reber
 Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT

Col. L. E. May, USAF
 Deputy Chairman

Mr. H. M. Wiedemann, State

Col. T. L. Fisher, JCS

Maj. J. D. Bowlby, OACSI

Capt. F. M. Murphy, ONI

Lt. Col. H. J. Knoll, AFCIN

NSA

CIA

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CONSULTANTS PRESENT

Lt. Col. W. C. Herrington, JCS

Mr. J. T. Hughes, OACSI

Cdr. H. D. Myles, ONI

Lt. Cdr. R. E. Pyle, ONI

Maj. S. J. Moran, AFCIN

Capt. K. F. Perske, AFCIN

Mr. F. A. Voigt, CIA

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Approval of Minutes

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1. The Minutes of 23 and 28 March (COMOR-M-17 and 18)
 were approved.

Release of Certain Sanitized TALENT Photography (COMOR-D-22/6)

2. The COMOR concurred in the proposal set forth in the sub-
 ject paper.

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Requirement for Photo Coverage of Vietnam/South China

3. The COMOR agreed to recommend to submit the following proposal:

(1) There are strong current indications that the ChiComs are engaging in a buildup in South China of a nature which would be required for any intervention in the Laotian/Vietnam situation.

(2) If the international situation were to deteriorate rapidly and U.S. Forces were required to undertake military action incident to ChiCom intervention, U.S. Forces are lacking current intelligence on the staging areas North and East of the North Vietnam border and in most cases in South China there is no intelligence available.

(3) Previous Indochina and ChiCom U-2 photography has demonstrated that we can learn details bearing upon airfield activity, rail transportation activity, port activity, military encampments, and in some cases, electronic installations. Photography will provide critical indications information as well as data essential to effective targeting by military forces.

(4) It is recommended that U-2 coverage be obtained on an urgent basis of the area North and East of the North Vietnam border as well as Hainan Island.* (* The State Department reserves its position on this recommendation.)

(5) Specific targets (Army and Air Force targets received to date) to be covered by the foregoing operation, if approved, have been turned over to Operations for planning as required.

Priority Requirements for Satellite Photography

4. (1) In pursuance of a briefing and suggestions by the Air Force representative, the COMOR has been preparing guidance sheets on highest priority targets for satellite photography. These sheets have been prepared on individual targets in a form which we expect to become standard and which in part is adaptable to machine handling. The primary purpose is to insure

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[redacted]

that in the preliminary interpretation (the OAK) the photo interpreters will be able to be responsive by number to the primary objectives of the intelligence community. The final form of these guidance sheets is set forth in [redacted] 4 April 1961, transmitted under a covering memorandum by [redacted] who headed up the working group which prepared the sheets. The COMOR on 11 April 1961 approved these guidance sheets, and NPIC is hereby requested to follow these sheets in the production of the next OAK.

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(2) At a later stage it is the COMOR's intention to have the materials on the guidance sheets transferred to 5 x 8 cards and distributed to all members in order to permit easier handling. Meanwhile, however, it is recognized that guidance sheets on highest priority targets for satellite photography are required for ChiCom and for Eastern European Satellites. [redacted] is requested to reconvene his working group and to work out assignments agreeable to the agencies for the preparation of these guidance sheets with a deadline for submission to the COMOR for its final approval of 1 May 1961.

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(3) The Air Force has agreed to prepare for the community a machine listing of the targets discussed in the foregoing paragraphs to be known as "Highest Priority Targets for Satellite Photography." This will now take the place of A-1 list of the earlier Air Force machine listing.

(4) In addition, the agencies are requested to review promptly and forward to the Air Force, attention Maj. Gerald S. Chapman, any revisions in the Priority I list as initially distributed by the Air Force, such contributions to be presented in the form requested by Major Chapman in his memorandum [redacted] 13 March 1961.

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(5) The COMOR has agreed that the Highest Priority and Priority I lists outlined above will become the approved COMOR target listings and that the Air Force will manage the updating of these lists as required from time to time. The meaning of the code relating to items of interest shall be kept separate from the listing. Security classification problems raised by the inclusion of any item shall be met either by sanitization or exclusion.

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[REDACTED]

The Air Force will also plot these targets, designating by the highest and the Priority I and will make such plots available to the COMOR members. These target plots, along with the analyses that have been made of the highest targets in the guidance sheets, should be extremely useful to the COMOR in providing advice to future CORONA shots. Likewise, it is understood that they will meet needs of the Air Force for guidance in SAMOS shots.

(6) The COMOR also agreed that subsequent to each satellite mission and immediately upon completion of the preliminary report, it will determine what revisions should be made in the list.

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Functions of TCOs in Connection with Clearances

5. The Committee offered suggestions to the [REDACTED] for inclusion in his memorandum establishing the functions of the TCOs in handling operational clearances for their respective agencies.

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[REDACTED]

JAMES Q. REBER
Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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Copy 1--DDP

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14--DDI(P) TCO

15--OCI TCO

16--OSI TCO

17--ORR TCO

18--DIR NPIC

19--CIA TSO

20--C/DMD/NPIC

21--C/DMD/NPIC

22--DDP TCO

23--Intel Staff/DPD

24--SO/DPD

25-27--C/SRS/DPD/DDP

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